



Cote d'Ivoire - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 9 September 2013

Information on the FPI including treatment of its members

A publication released in February 2013 by the *United States Institute of Peace* notes that:

“Gbagbo’s party, the Front Populaire Ivoirien (FPI), boycotted the parliamentary elections held in December 2011. The FPI, which hasn’t participated in the regular political process ever since, remains hostile to any dialogue with the Ivorian government and has made impartial justice an important condition for its return to the negotiating table” (United States Institute of Peace (1 February 2013) *Justice in Côte d’Ivoire*, p.2).

A report issued in November 2012 by the *International Crisis Group* points out that:

“The Front populaire ivoirien (FPI), former President Gbagbo’s party, has chosen isolation by withdrawing from the electoral process...” (International Crisis Group (26 November 2012) *Cote D’Ivoire: Defusing Tensions*, p.i).

This report also states:

“The FPI’s moderate wing has not been able to distance itself from the exiled hardliners who nourish hope of regaining military power” (ibid, p.i).

This document also notes:

“The continuation of the image of Gbagbo as a paternal figure is essential in the current state of the party, which is now led by much lower-level figures and lacks in charismatic personalities mainly because the historic leaders of the FPI are either in prison in Côte d’Ivoire or in exile” (ibid, p.11).

In January 2013 a document released by the *United Nations Human Rights Council* points out that:

“The FPI, the party of former President Gbagbo, is at a crossroads, torn between those who are convinced that dialogue and reconciliation are urgent and necessary, and supporters who remain committed to regaining power by force” (United Nations Human Rights Council (7 January 2013) *Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d’Ivoire*, p.6).

IRIN News in December 2012 notes:

“Relations between President Alassane Ouattara’s Rally of Republicans (RDR) party and that of his predecessor, the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) party, since the end of the 2010-2011 poll dispute remain tense” (IRIN News (20 December 2012) *Analysis: Côte d’Ivoire needs top-down reconciliation*).

This document states:

“The government has also been blamed for selective justice. More than 150 Gbagbo loyalists, including top FPI officials, have been charged with offences stemming from the post-poll violence. No Ouattara supporter has been charged” (ibid).

A report published by *BBC News* in January 2013 states:

“Ivory Coast's former youth minister and ally of ex-President Laurent Gbagbo, Charles Ble Goude, has been charged with war crimes, murder and theft of public funds. Last week Mr Ble Goude was extradited to Ivory Coast from Ghana. Mr Ble Goude denies leading pro-Gbagbo militias who attacked foreigners and northerners during the unrest which followed disputed elections in 2010” (BBC News (21 January 2013) *Ivory Coast charges Gbagbo loyalist Charles Ble Goude*).

Commenting on attacks, a report issued in February 2013 by *Amnesty International* notes that:

“Regardless of the identity of the perpetrators of these attacks, these events have been used as justification for the mass arrests of those suspected of being, or proven to be, members or supporters of the FPI accused of plotting to destabilize the country” (Amnesty International (26 February 2013) *Côte d'Ivoire: The Victors' Law*, p.14).

This report also notes:

“...the continued arrests of FPI officials in Côte d'Ivoire...” (ibid, p.18).

A report published in June 2013 by the *United Nations Security Council* notes:

“On 7 June, the interim Secretary of the FPI youth wing, Koua Justin, was arrested in Abidjan on the grounds of endangering State security” (United Nations Security Council (26 June 2013) *Thirty-second report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire*, p.3).

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

Sources Consulted

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